



# GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

DECEMBER 2015 VOLUME 6 ISSUE 12

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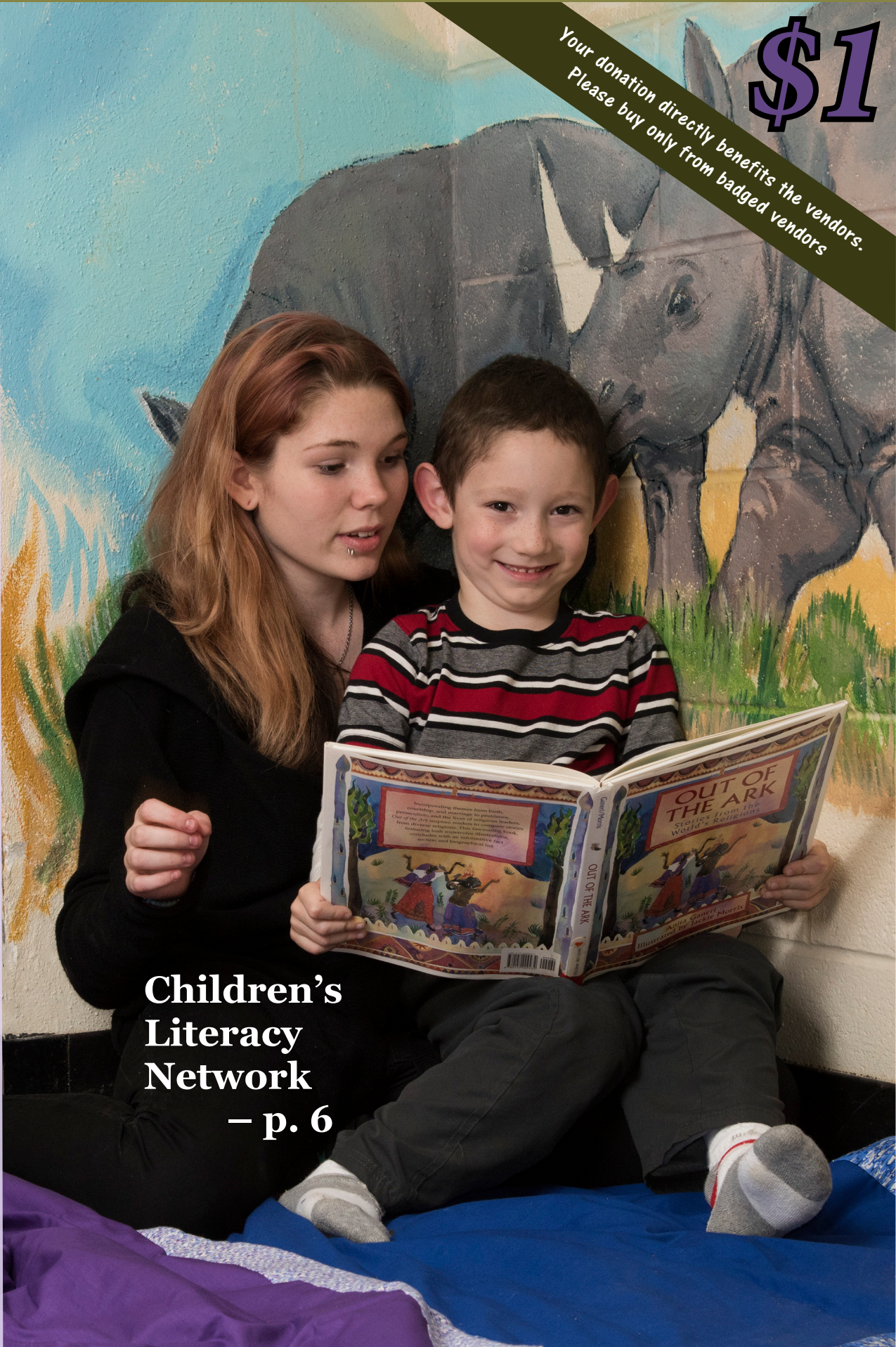
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# Cuts to mental health budget imperil special needs workers



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

As a panelist at an event hosted by University of Michigan Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's "After 5" program, entitled "Homelessness in Washtenaw County: A Panel Discussion," I was asked for my views on the problems leading to homelessness and the corresponding solutions. I approached the question through my Groundcover News lens and focused on the problem of too-few suitable employment opportunities for people with challenges.

In fact, despite Washtenaw County agencies' exemplary record, local agencies consistently fall short on two Michigan State Housing Development

Authority (MSHDA) metrics: increasing the employment and income of residents.

Work is so much more than an income-generating activity. It forms the basis of identity and social interaction. One of the first questions asked by new acquaintances is, "What do you do?"

Outside of family, the people who share one's daily minutiae, trials and tribulations are likely to be co-workers. The absence of work often results in social isolation, as not only are co-workers and identity lacking, but usually also the financial means to engage in everyday social activities, even grocery shopping. And the lack of meaningful activity leaves people at loose ends.

Many of the people who sell Groundcover do so because they either cannot get a traditional job or they cannot keep one after they get it. Medical conditions such as severe diabetes, high blood pressure, depression, arthritis and migraine headaches leave people unable to perform at predictable times. Similarly, caregivers may have only a few hours each day when they can work and even those are conditional on the health and schedules of those they care for. Employers do not look kindly on being left in the lurch. These vendors sell Groundcover News when their bodies and circumstances allow them to do so. More flexible employment opportunities like this are needed, especially as our workforce ages.

Others cannot get jobs because of prison records, special needs, educational deficits or the inability to produce the necessary documentation for employment in the mainstream economy. Some people in this category work in the shadows – hired for daily construction or yard work outside big-box stores, working under the table as nannies, and so on. Paid in cash, these workers have no way to prove they earn regular income, a requirement of most landlords. While Groundcover vendors do not receive a paycheck either, we can at least vouch for how much stock they purchased and estimate a minimum income based on that. We also encourage our vendors to file taxes and some landlords accept a filed return as proof of annual income.

A couple of part-time Groundcover vendors also have part-time jobs through a Vocational Services program that has been supervised by Community Support and Treatment Services (CSTS). Their CSTS job coaches help them identify jobs they will be good at, prepare them to succeed and help them work through problems that might arise. Many of these jobs have flexible

work hours to accommodate special needs.

Unfortunately, this model is in jeopardy. Large cuts in state funding for mental health have seriously impacted community-based mental health agencies – even after administrative savings realized by merging CSTS and the Washtenaw County Health Organization into a single entity: Washtenaw County Community Mental Health (CMH). State funding for mental health has fallen by \$3.5 million since 2013 – a 40-percent cut, according to Trish Cortes, director of CSTS. And while insurance plans do cover mental health treatment, they do not always cover services such as actually getting people to their appointments – known as case management. Funding shortfalls are forcing the new CMH department to lay off scores of personnel.

It appears that saving the existing client jobs in the Vocational Services program is a priority but the work-skills development staff is likely to be laid off at the end of February.

As for the employment prospects of those returning from prison, some of those who have lived crime-free for at least the past five years could be returned to the workforce by having their records expunged. (Doing so requires tracking down court paperwork and filing petitions, requiring some professional assistance. See the April issue of Groundcover News for extensive expungement informa-

tion.) At the recent Equity Summit, Washtenaw County Jerry Sheriff Clayton called on the community to show courage and hire returning citizens. His department recently hired a man they had previously helped convict on a RICO (racketeering) charge.

There is a broad consensus in our community that people capable of working should do so. The challenge is to provide a framework in which people can work, even if they cannot conform to traditional work schedules or need additional support to successfully navigate the workplace.

The employers among us can adjust our hiring policies. Voters can let state government officials know that funding vocational assistance programs for at-risk workers is a priority for us. Mentors can assist with prison-record expungements. Entrepreneurs can start social enterprises to fulfill employment needs with a pool of workers who together can reliably meet them.

Employment matters, and though it may be less efficient to hire workers with difficult life circumstances, it is in the best interests of our community to do so.

## GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

*Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.*

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## Post-it note gifts enable giving of self



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell  
Groundcover Contributor

Among my holiday decorations are nearly 40 years of Christmas tree ornaments, wrapped in abundant stories and memories. One of the oldest of these ornaments is a salmon-colored scallop shell suspended on a gold cord.

When I was a seminary student in the 1970s, I was invited to a small holiday party for people I worked with and their families. All of us brought inexpensive gifts to exchange with the other households at the party. In the mix of people were a couple of spouses with real jobs; the rest of us were graduate students or employees of small non-profits. Everyone was living on a tight budget. There must have been a modest price restriction on the gifts or perhaps a requirement they be handmade. I've forgotten that detail by now. The only clear recollection of the party I have is the scallop shell that has hung on my tree for so long.

I've been at other holiday gatherings

since then where small presents were given with the agreement they either be below a certain price or made by hand. In our dominant bigger-is-better culture, such an agreement is often a creative challenge. When my daughters were younger and still at home, I enjoyed stuffing their stockings with an array of small, wrapped items. Most years I tucked some Post-it notes in among those stocking gifts.

When my younger daughter Molly was finishing college, she looked at me and said, "Mom, no more Post-it notes. I have a supply that will last me for years!" If I recall correctly, she had filled most of a shoe box with them. I am a writer, and most writers love office supplies, but I stopped buying Post-it notes for my daughters after Molly revealed her stockpile.

Time passed, and several years ago when Molly was in her fourth or fifth year as a Chicago Public School teacher, she looked at me with a smile and said, "Well, Mom, I've run out of Post-it notes!" Since I don't stuff stockings anymore, I haven't resumed my previous Post-it note gifting habit. But this holiday, I may toss a pad or two of those self-adhesive notes in the direction of my daughters and son-

in-law. In fact, I may distribute packs of Post-it notes to lots of people, an inexpensive gift on which we can leave a handwritten message.

My 2015 Post-it note gifts won't be about cost or usefulness. These gifts will honor Caitlin Prater-Haacke. Caitlin is a high school student in Alberta, Canada. Earlier this fall Caitlin was cyberbullied with a message on her Facebook page suggesting she kill herself. This remarkable young student became a profound teacher to the rest of us in how she responded.

Her response was from the heart but not from an angry heart, a fearful heart, or a vengeful heart. Her response was from that place in her heart where her wholeness resides. Caitlin's next post was an old-fashioned one with Post-it notes rather than an electronic one. Ten days after she was bullied, she showed up at her high school with a plastic baggie full of Post-it note pads. On each page she had written a life-giving message in marker. She stuck a positive, celebratory message on the locker of every one of her 914 high school classmates. Students loved it. The high school administration reprimanded her for littering. Fortunately, the wisdom

in her hometown was greater than that of the administration. A Positive Post-it Campaign spread across town and was officially mandated by the City Council of Airedrie, Alberta with the declaration of October 9 as Positive Post-It Day. Post-it notes appeared all over town.

With thanks to Caitlin, my gift to you in this season of many holidays is a request. Never forget the small handmade acts we can choose to extend to others from the wholeness of who we are for the sake of our common wholeness. Such acts may only take a Post-it note.

**A mass commemorating the passing of Shawn Story one year ago will be held at St. Mary Student Parish at 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 10. All are invited to attend.**

## Crossword puzzle master needed

After five and a half years of faithfully producing original crossword puzzles for Groundcover News, our puzzle master, Jeff Richmond, has announced his retirement. This month's puzzle will be his last.

We are deeply grateful to Jeff. His puzzles have amused thousands of us. The prospect of a fresh puzzle is what

many of you look forward to most with each new issue of Groundcover, and we hope to continue satisfying that desire.

If you – or someone you know – is interested in constructing crossword puzzles, please email [submissions@groundcovernews.com](mailto:submissions@groundcovernews.com) so we can discuss the next steps.



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## Washtenaw County Equity Summit

by Rania Hannon  
Groundcover Intern

It was easy to feel optimistic at the 2015 Washtenaw County Equity Summit, which was so well attended that an overflow room was necessary. However, a forum on equity must inevitably address economic and racial inequity. Despite how progressive Washtenaw County is, a vast amount of inequity still exists.

Community leaders shared a great deal of sobering data that attests to this. Over the past 10 years, about 12,000 jobs have been lost in Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township. In that same period of time, about 13,000 jobs were added in Ann Arbor and Pittsfield Township. In Washtenaw County's east side, some unemployment rates are as high as 40 percent. It is also important to bear in mind that every dollar of wealth in a white household equates to seven cents in a Latino household and six cents in a black household. Because of the reduced earnings of minorities, Washtenaw County lost an estimated \$1.3 billion of wealth in 2013, according to County Commission Chair Felicia Brabec.

Incarceration rates contribute to this wealth disparity. Over half of the jail inmates in Washtenaw County are African American, yet African Americans make up just 14 percent of the county's population. Additionally, African American minors petition to juvenile court at 2.5 times the rate of white minors. Sheriff Jerry Clayton argued that this is not a racial issue; it is a socioeconomic status issue, as there is a correlation between people of color and poor socioeconomic conditions in concentrated areas. He spoke passionately about the need for law enforcement to redefine its role within the community. One place to start would be to address lower-level offenses without forcing people to enter the criminal justice system. This is especially the case with young people – as Sheriff Clayton so aptly put it, “We need to stop criminal-

izing knucklehead teenage behavior.”

Superintendent of Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Scott Menzel, spoke about current programs that aim to reduce gaps in educational achievement – programs such as the Study of Early Literacy, Intel Math grant, and My Brother's Keeper Initiative. These programs are more than necessary at a time when there is a 45-point gap in 3rd grade reading between economically disadvantaged students and those who are not.

Menzel also discussed the unintended consequence of the School of Choice Policy, where parents get to choose where their kids go to school. On the east side of Washtenaw County 3,600 school-age children that reside within the boundaries of the Ypsilanti community school district have choiced-out to charter or public schools. As a result, schools have become far more segregated by race and class than any other district. “When you have that kind of segregation, you are denying children the opportunity to succeed in school and in life,” Menzel stated.

Ellen Rabinowitz, Washtenaw County Public Health Officer, suggested that an individual's zip code can be one a determinant of his or her lifespan. In Washtenaw County, whites live an average of 75 years, while African Americans average 65 years, which she noted is “not likely to [be] long enough to retire and reap the benefits of a pension after a lifetime of hard work.”

Rabinowitz also summarized several successful public health programs: the Maternal and Infant Health Program assists mothers in getting prenatal care and has reduced pre-term birthrates; the Prescription For Health Program, where doctors prescribe fruits and vegetables for patients' conditions and patients then receive tokens to use at farmers markets; and Avalon FUSE Permanent Supportive Housing, which works to find housing for the highest and most frequent users of emergency

room services. Avalon FUSE is only in its second year but is already showing a dramatic decrease in the use of hospital emergency rooms, thus decreasing the use of inpatient services. “This is a great example of how housing is healthcare,” Rabinowitz stated.

Executive director of the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, Jennifer Hall, also touched on the crucial role that housing plays. The Housing First Model for homelessness emphasizes finding stable, permanent housing as the primary strategy for ending homelessness. Washtenaw County has adopted this model and it has made a huge impact on the number of homeless individuals. Washtenaw County is also one of the few communities in the nation that is likely to meet its Zero:2016 goal to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 and chronic homelessness by the end of 2016.

Hall also talked about Section 8 subsidized housing vouchers. The commission has around 1,500, but less than a third of tenants have been able to find places to live in Ann Arbor. Steep rent and landlord discretion (renting to a student is considered simpler and more prosperous) has made finding housing in Ann Arbor a challenge. Because of this, most vouchers are used in areas

with higher concentrations of poverty, such as Ypsilanti.

The highlight of the event was the unveiling of the Washtenaw Opportunity Index, which can be found at [opportunitywashtenaw.org](http://opportunitywashtenaw.org). This interactive map is a visual representation of health, job access, economic wellbeing, education and training, and neighborhood safety and stability throughout Washtenaw County. Dwayne Marsh, senior advisor to the HUD Office of Economic Resilience, stated, “We need to put equity at the forefront of every policy decision we make.” The Washtenaw Opportunity Index will be a powerful tool as it makes disparities easy to see and is a dynamic way to inform future policy and funding decisions.

Menzel challenged the panel and audience with a question: “We have the capacity to do this and the resources to do this if we allocate them appropriately. The question is: Do we have the will to do this? Do we really care about our neighbor enough to do the things that ensure that children in poverty and children of color and their families are able to be successful... so that we're not protecting those who already have resources to the disadvantage of those who don't?”

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# Building your business by living your dream – the holistic business model



by Angie Martell  
Groundcover  
Contributor

Clients often ask me what they need to know before they start a business. Other clients ask me what they need to know in order to stay in business. More and more, people are venturing out and starting their own businesses, from baking cupcakes to providing consultant services. It is estimated that one million U.S. workers have gone to work for themselves since February 2015, according to recent survey results from the U.S. Department of Labor.

As a holistic attorney and a co-owner of a farm and creamery (Fluffy Bottom Farms in Chelsea, Mich.), I know all-too-well how complicated it can be to run a business. We business owners put our love and vision into our business and envision and dream of its potential. However, the amount of time and money we spend should be in alignment with transformative experiences that lead to customer satisfaction and, ultimately, our success. Too often we remain stuck, paralyzed, unable to move forward – constrained by our own resistance or our perceived limitations. So whether you are forming a new business or have a business already, it's important to explore how we do business by keeping the following steps and foundation in mind.

## Key steps in building a holistic business:

### Create the vision of what you want.

Determine the legal structure you want. Make a business plan. Identify your market. Know your client base. Do your homework regarding what you need to get started or, if you are already in business, review what has been working and what has not and look at why. A good starting source is the United States Small Business Administration website: [sba.gov](http://sba.gov).

**Determine costs and budget for your business.** Consider the entire organization of your business in its processes, policies and employee relationships as opposed to focusing on just specific components. What is working and what isn't working? Set up a good support system.

**Remove old mindsets that do not serve you.** Half the battle in maintaining good business practices is removing the resistance you put up. Develop new

mindsets and beliefs about your business and your role within your company. Have faith that you can do it.

**Learn to adapt and delegate.** Failure to adapt and delegate is one of the most common reasons why businesses do not stay in business and owners suffer from burnout.

### Find balance between work and life.

As holistic entrepreneurs, we embrace our love life, family, work, and spirituality in everything we do. The conscious realization of our values guides how we create and maintain our businesses. You must love what you do to succeed.

### Key structures for a proper business foundation:

**Legal** – Minimizing potential liability and risk means getting your legal ducks in a row. A business owner needs to explore what legal requirements are needed for his or her business. If you are starting a new business, it's about exploring what is the best business structure for you (e.g., LLC, Partnership, S Corporation, C Corporation, Sole Proprietorship).

To avoid and minimize legal risks, it is imperative to identify the issues your business faces, assess risks, form a plan to address these risks or problems, implement that plan, and look at the legal requirements for your business. What are risk areas in your business – employee training, compliance and safety standards, human resource issues, dispute resolution procedures, insurance, liability waivers? How do you protect your brand?

Legal Enlightenment means using website disclaimers, terms and conditions, and privacy policies, effective client agreements, analyzing tax and insurance issues, as well as reviewing the requirements for online programs and products. To manage your risk you must also address management and professional liability issues such as failure to adequately investigate claims that come to your attention, failure to provide a service, breach of duty, defamation, negligence, misrepresentation, and mismanagement. You must also address asset protection such as threats to individual or business wealth from contract creditors, consumer and bank debt, joint and several partnership liabilities, and litigation.

**Financial** – Seek advice from an accountant regarding taxes and potential audits. Analyze your record-keeping system and fee structures, as well as possibly delegating the responsibility of

these duties.

**Records Management** – How are your records kept? Are you compliant with confidentiality requirements (for example, HIPPA requirements as well as protection of Confidential Client information, especially if kept in the cloud)? What procedures must be followed day-to-day to ensure security and regulatory compliance?

**Customer Relations** – Building lasting business relationships are as important as your brand. If you have poor customer relations you will not be in business long. Make sure you have effective contracts. Contracts are often relationship-building tools with customers, vendors and employees. A well-drafted contract can help business owners manage risk, avoid unnecessary disputes, limit liability and avoid unintended legal obligations. Developing a problem-solving methodology is crucial to a business's well-being.

is working and what isn't, and what changes may be needed. Often, part of the problem business owners face is that they have allowed their fears and or resistances to overwhelm them and prevent them from finding sustainable solutions and seeing possible opportunities.

When we create holistic and sustainable business strategies, we can develop entirely new mindsets and beliefs about our companies and our roles within them. We learn to work smarter, not harder. It means that, as business owners, we learn to communicate and connect differently to reach our goals while empowering ourselves to more fully understand the ins and outs of the product or service that we are offering. Then we can focus on sustainably serving our markets instead of the stock market, and reconnect our company successes with social progress – because isn't that why we all became involved in business in the first place?

## The holistic perspective – a mindset of working smarter, not harder

All businesses need a check-up – that is, a periodic assessment of what

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## Children's Literacy Network – bringing reading home

by Sue Budin  
Groundcover Contributor

As a former board member of the Children's Literacy Network (CLN), I can attest to the important work they do in promoting early reading to the children and parents of Washtenaw County who, because of limited income, cannot afford to buy books for their children.

CLN has been providing new books for children since the agency was founded over 29 years ago by two women, Jennie Zimmer and Joan Wiseman, who were so concerned by this gap in services that they began what was then called The Baby Book Club. Totally staffed by volunteers, they started small, soliciting money from individuals and groups to buy books for preschoolers. As the mission and scope expanded, the name was changed to the Family Book Club. And once again, with growth and a new vision of partnerships with other community agencies promoting literacy, the name was changed to the Children's Literacy Network.

This past year, CLN gave away over 8,000 books through a number of programs. They are able to buy these books because of generous donations from individual donors and grants from service organizations and businesses including Kiwanis, TJX Foundation, Toyota, and many others. CLN gives away these books through programs that encourage reading between parents and children, older readers and their siblings, and other adults important in the lives of these beginning readers.

One of these programs is called "Mothers and Babies." Baby welcome packets are assembled by volunteers for at-risk mothers. Each packet includes an infant book, a brochure on the value of reading, and practical tips for a baby's healthy development. Over 800 packets are distributed each year, through partnerships with Washtenaw



The children of Groundcover vendor Rose S. are among many to have their own books thanks to the Children's Literacy Network.

County Public Health Department, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and University of Michigan Visiting Nurses.

Another program that has been very successful because of the involvement of Head Start teachers is called "Read to Kids." Parents of Head Start students can earn a free book every time they read at least 10 books to their child each month.

"Staying in Closer Touch" is a very special program in which volunteers bring books to local correctional institutions and meet with parents who sign up to be recorded reading a book to their child. A CD with their recording is sent to the child along with a copy of the book. It's hard to describe the love these people bring to their reading and how important this simple act can be in deepening the connection between incarcerated parent and child.

"Even if you are not home with them, this gives them a part of you," a woman in the program told one volunteer.

These programs take place at the women's prison in Ypsilanti, the federal men's prison in Milan and the Washtenaw County Jail.

In the last two years, CLN has been helping teachers and students at Mitchell Elementary School develop a greater love of reading by giving first through third graders eight new books to read during the summer. It has been shown that students' reading levels drop significantly if they don't read for these months away from school. These books are high-interest and at appropriate reading levels. Children can choose whatever books they want so that they will be motivated to read them. I have been to several of these book giveaways and have watched the children's faces light up when they're told they can take whatever they want.

After seeing the

success of the Mitchell School program, CLN was excited about expanding this project to a neighborhood near the school and to two low-income communities in Ypsilanti. After discussions with the Family Learning Institute, a tutoring agency with which they share a building, CLN asked the Kiwanis Club if they would be interested in funding a bookmobile. This cheerfully-painted van now holds court in these neighborhoods every week for eight weeks during the summer and children flock there to get a free book each week. A ten-year-old resident of Hamilton Crossing said, "I always get excited on Bookmobile Night!"

In addition to these programs, CLN also donates books to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and has collaborated with bookstores in the area so that a percentage of their sales on a designated day can go to CLN if customers are interested in supporting their programs.

CLN, like the children it serves, is growing and thriving with a strong volunteer base, an active board, and a tireless executive director, Kristy Cooper – who, like a limber puppeteer, works the strings that hold this amazing show together. If you are interested in volunteering or just want more information about CLN, you can visit its website, [www.childrensliteracynetwork.org](http://www.childrensliteracynetwork.org).

The people who have walked in the darkness have seen a great light.

Isaiah 9:2b



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### Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2015

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Well, I do appreciate your gift and I have one for you as well.

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Let's just say I paid your gift forward.\*

\*Please remember our furry friends in your hearts this holiday season.



## Celebrating the life of Rissa Haynes, April 6, 1957 – November 12, 2015

Our friend and Groundcover News co-worker, Rissa Haynes, passed away on Thursday, November 12 at the University of Michigan hospital. Feeling poorly, she was transferred there a week earlier from MediLodge of Plymouth, where she had been recovering from a stroke and bone infection. She suffered a heart attack while in the hospital, entered a coma-like state and succumbed several days later with her son, Chancler, and granddaughter, Harper, by her side.

One month before, on October 13, she was optimistic about being released and returning home by Thanksgiving. Optimism was Rissa's trademark trait. She called herself "an incurable optimist" and asserted that "I'm the kind of person who goes after Moby Dick with my tartar sauce."

"I love people. I love talking to people," Rissa said in an August, 2011 interview with Vicki Elmer, published in the Ann Arbor Observer. Her optimism came from her faith in God and her belief in the Bible verses that promise all things will work for the good. But "I'm not sitting around and saying, 'The Lord's going to take care of me,'" she continued. Instead, she worked on her life goals, which included completing a master's degree and teaching others how to use computers.

She was bold, spunky, forward-thinking and determined. Beset by circumstances that would have left many of us huddled in a corner, Rissa repeatedly turned tragedy into triumph, bringing as many



Above: Rissa with her team of helpers at the MediLodge nursing home, a month before she passed away. Right: Rissa in 2011.



others up with her as she could.

Though her parents eventually split up, Rissa was raised in a loving family and stayed close with her mother, Evelyn Haynes, and brothers, Robert and Roderrick Hopkins, to the end.

As a talented musician and good student, Rissa was pursuing a dual major in college when her son was conceived. Her family supported her in having and raising the baby. Rissa managed to finish college while her son was young but dropped music in favor of the more practical program of computers in business applications.

Rissa and her son, Chancler Haynes, eventually moved to Texas where she worked for Frito Lay and then Texas Instruments in the testing department. When Chancler left for college, she spent her nights hunched over a computer, working on her master's degree. And that's when her health problems began.

Doctors were never able to pinpoint the source of the problems but her legs and hands eventually became unresponsive. As western medicine provided no diagnosis or cure, Rissa turned to natural remedies and chiropractic medicine – from which she did get some relief. Unfortunately, these treatments were not covered by insurance.

She returned to Michigan to assist her mother but was too infirm herself to be helpful. The cold weather and absence of treatment worsened her symptoms. She found herself new alternative doctors but was eventually impoverished by the medical costs.

It was at a Community Kitchen meal that Rissa heard about Groundcover News. She immediately grasped the business model and embraced the opportunity to be a self-employed entrepreneur. She went on to become a member of the Groundcover News Board of Directors.

Rissa's mobility was so limited at first that she could not turn quickly enough to intercept a potential client – so she found other ways to succeed. Her ingenious displays attracted a loyal customer base at the People's Food Co-op, St. Francis of Assisi Church and Bethlehem United Church of Christ (BUCC). She sold yearly subscriptions.

She wrote numerous articles. Her infectious smile and chocolate eyes brimming with love drew people to her.

Rissa's condition improved for a year or so but more setbacks ensued and she frequently found herself in the hospital or a recovery facility. Visits from BUCC parishioners and Groundcover friends during those times meant so much to her. She was also so appreciative of the Avalon Carrot Way apartment and support she received last year through the FUSE program.

Though she was no longer able to play piano, Rissa retained her love of music. She enthusiastically attended concerts at BUCC, bringing along her mother whenever possible. A natural mentor, she especially appreciated the nurturing of young performers.

Rissa lived by the words she shared with Eva Hattie Schuler, a reporter for Community High School's *The Communicator*: "Just bloom where you're planted. Be grateful for what you do have, 'cause if you focus on what you don't have, you become bitter. *You* control your brain. Take the perspective [that] there's always a silver lining in every cloud. If you focus on the cloud, you'll get rain. If you focus on the silver lining, you'll be able to get the positive aspects."

Rissa lit up the room with her smile and the world with her positivity and love. We all ache with missing her.

Rissa's family has planned a memorial service for January 9, at 11:00 a.m., at St. John's Lutheran Church on Wayne Rd. in Westland, Michigan.



### St. Francis of Assisi PARISH

A Proud supporter of Groundcover News

"We ask [Jesus] to change hatred into love, vengeance into forgiveness, war into peace. Yes, Christ is our peace, and through him to implore peace for all the world."

Pope Francis

#### Mass Schedule

**Saturday**

5:00 p.m.

**Sunday**

7:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

St Francis of Assisi Parish  
2250 East Stadium Blvd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 769-2550  
www.stfrancisa2.com



## Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

9								2
	1		9	7		3		
4			8			1	7	
	9			1	8			
		4	7	9	2	6		
			5	6			2	
	2	5			9			4
		7		3	1		9	
1								8

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

## Cryptoquote:

XPKHNF TRW XMBHPZ  
TRW PKX JEHRNHJAXF QY  
DBFPHNX WQ RQP NKTRSX  
UHPK PKX NTAXRWTE.

– W. K. ATUEXRNX

Clue: ∅ = W

## Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

*All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:*

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell

to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:  
[contact@groundcovernews.com](mailto:contact@groundcovernews.com)  
734-707-9210

### ACROSS

- Olympic sport
- Residence
- Use brute force
- Above
- Disintegrate
- The one and \_\_\_\_\_
- Famous ship
- Matured
- Valentino role
- Groove
- Sheep
- Rocky terrain
- Arsenio \_\_\_\_\_
- Daddies
- Sea
- Endowments
- Graduates
- Consume a meal
- Singer Anthony
- Mature
- Terminus
- Indistinct appearance
- Chilled
- Japanese coin
- New York theater
- Typographical adornment
- Expire
- Mr. Greenstreet, for short
- Declared
- Authentic
- Sculpture
- Scandinavian
- Remove soap from
- Chair
- Hollywood
- At this location
- Produces
- Leader
- Alternatively
- Station
- Trees

### DOWN

- Card game
- Provo's state
- Completed
- Pertaining to vision
- Garment edge
- California county
- Mower manufacturer
- Amend

### Christmas tree ornaments

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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17				18						19		
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59	60			61		62	63			64		65
68			69		70				71			
72					73					74		
75					76						77	

- Cary Grant's original surname
- Snake
- Venezuela landmark
- Killed
- Robert Louis Stevenson character
- Ohio city
- Popeye's foe, the Sea \_\_\_\_\_
- Citric and nitric
- Pole dance
- Prince of Troy
- Lewis Carroll character
- A-list celebrities
- Yoga pose
- Eccentric one
- Very
- Fish
- Television, etc.
- Temporary condition

- Fish
- Gem
- Flipper
- Abracadabra!
- Was affectionate
- Limber
- Tennis pro Arthur
- Spindle
- Frost
- Cut
- Christmas
- Traveled in water
- Odds and \_\_\_\_\_
- Golfer's accessory
- Time zone (abbr.)

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond



## Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

734-665-6149

*Bethlehem Church is the home of the Groundcover office*

### Sunday Worship Times

8:30 am and 10:00 am

Sunday school at 10:15 am

Fellowship Hour follows each service

### December Community Events – Welcome!

- Dec. 5 (Sat.)** Sing Along with Santa, in the Bethlehem Sanctuary (Tickets: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, 734-994-4801)
- Dec. 6 (Sun.)** Ann Arbor Youth Chorale winter concert (info: 996-4404)
- Dec. 13 (Sun.)** Bethlehem Children's Christmas Program, 10 am
- Dec. 13 (Sun.)** Advent Workshop, following the 10 am service
- Dec. 18 (Fri.)** German Pretzel Sales, 11am-2pm, \$1 or \$10 dozen
- Dec. 24 (Thur.)** CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 11:00 PM

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[www.youtube.com/user/  
BethlehemChurchA2](https://www.youtube.com/user/BethlehemChurchA2)



[bethlehem-ucc.org](http://bethlehem-ucc.org)



## “Rosie the Riveter” musical debut reveals national potential

by Susan Beckett

The musical play “Rosie the Riveter” is based on the true-life stories of local women who worked in Willow Run’s Ford Motor Company Bomber Plant from 1942-45, several of whom attended each performance of the Wild Swan Theater production here in Ann Arbor this mid-November. Local composer Bryan Buckner and playwright Jeff Duncan managed to capture the voice and emotion of these women, along with their stories.

In the talk-back following the noon November 13 performance, Buckner shared that he drew on the music of Bette Midler and the Andrews Sisters for inspiration while composing period music and, for each character, looked to a genre associated with her cultural background. In the musical numbers featuring the upper-crust young woman who abandons her teaching studies at Ypsilanti’s Michigan State Normal College, he employed a show-tune paradigm. Songs for Bernice, who left her position as a maid in the Jim Crow South, have more of a Gospel feel, while Liz Marie’s Kentucky roots suggested a country nuance.

The genesis of the show was a Wild Swan Theater staff brainstorming session for original script ideas. Duncan’s ears perked up the moment he heard Rosie the Riveter. The man who penned this all-female production said, “I was raised by a single mother – unusual in my generation – and I have tremen-



Author Jeff Duncan with Helen Jede, an original Rosie who worked at the Willow Run Bomber Plant during World War Two.

dous respect for women... So Rosie really caught my interest. I like to write female characters.”

Through the Yankee Air Museum, he met Kim Godek and Donnaleen Lanktree of the American Rosie the Riveter Association. They put him in touch with local women who had worked at the Willow Run plant. Interviews with these remarkable women provided the basis for the script.

Duncan went on to say that when the play is developed into a longer format, it will reach beyond the factory plant and into other facets of the women’s lives. The songs will correspondingly broaden in length, complexity and

number. A larger production might also include a few males, as men were present in the factory, too. In this first production, each actress played multiple parts, some of them male. The harmonizing of the trio singing “The Heart is Tough” revealed the musical potential of an expanded production.

This show should live on indefinitely in youth and school theater productions in its current one-hour format. World War II history comes alive in an accessible fashion – as when Donna, a hairdresser from Ypsilanti, receives two packs of chewing gum from her husband serving at the front in Europe. Elated, she shares them with her children and co-workers and saves one

stick for a special occasion. It was apparent in the talk-back that this image of the effects of rationing – especially of sugar – would stay with the children in the audience. The charm of this show is captured in the authenticity of this exchange, based on accounts from the real Rosies.

The play identifies pressures, such as Liz Marie’s desire to escape the lung-blackening coal mines, and the corresponding emigration patterns within the United States. It elucidates the identities and social structures of the time. A father tries to persuade his daughter that an educated woman’s place was in the schools or home, certainly not in a factory. Racial and regional prejudices play out in the plot as women of various backgrounds are thrown together. And finally, as the war is ending and the women anticipate the men returning, they also anticipate being displaced from their jobs. Invigorated by having learned to use lathes, drill presses, welding equipment and riveters to produce whole planes – 28 each hour – they want to stay in the working world, perhaps running their own businesses.

Considering the current Rosie the Riveter craze – 2,090 women dressed as Rosies gathered at Willow Run Airport on October 24, 2015, to break Richmond, California’s August, 2015 Guinness World Record – and the quality of this play, I expect to see numerous children’s productions and, quite possibly, a full-scale touring production.

## Steve Jobs – a masterful biopic

by Andrew Nixon  
Associate Editor

It was a bold move to make a film about a man whose uncompromising vision changed the world — and have the entire story take place literally offstage. Astonishingly, it works.

Director Danny Boyle, who has earned wild praise for his creatively flashy style but not necessarily for substance, here demonstrates that he can deliver both. *Steve Jobs* could have been an ordinary biopic, dutifully documenting the facts of the celebrity’s life without much creative regard for storytelling. Instead, the filmmakers chose to make it less a conventional biography than a sharply focused character study, effectively trading span for depth.

Setting virtually the entire film behind stage just moments before a few key product launches in Jobs’ career — leaving us with just empty rooms and people talking — was indeed a creative risk. But *Steve Jobs* resoundingly succeeds, as great films generally do, due to great



writing, great acting, and great directing. I do not use that adjective lightly — everything about this film shouts *intelligence* of a rarefied order.

There is not a needless word spoken or gesture (on either side of the camera) given; all serves one purpose: to enrich our understanding of this brilliant but complex man. Every line, every expression, every shot takes us closer to the *who* of Steve Jobs: The uncompromising visionary.

The reluctant father. The notoriously difficult boss. The abandoned boy who feels that the only way to find happiness is total control over every aspect of his life — including others.

The writing alone, contributed by Aaron Sorkin (who also adapted the screenplay for *The Social Network*), would have made this a great film. But this is also a movie featuring two hours of virtually unbroken camera time with Michael Fassbender. Having

rapidly blazed his way to the top of the acting world since his Hollywood debut in 2007 (*300*), Fassbender once again defies typecasting, reconfiguring his personality totally to fit the role. With the help of Sorkin’s deeply perceptive writing, Fassbender takes us through the full spectrum of Jobs’ personality — his peerless intellect, his creative passion, his outrageous arrogance, his capacity for surprising moments of compassion — and ultimately makes us believers in Steve Jobs’ redemption. It is his finest performance on screen thus far — and by far the finest performance by a lead male actor this year.

Danny Boyle’s truly virtuosic directing, however, is equally responsible for making *Steve Jobs* such a compulsively fascinating film from beginning to end. Boyle provides a visual narrative that is just as intelligent and quick-witted as the people portrayed. Boyle is careful not to let glitz get in the way; for all the quicksilver editing and creative use of special effects and flashbacks to flesh out the story, Fassbender and the rest

see STEVE JOBS, page 10



## My first brush with death

by Bruce C., Jr.  
Vendor # 291

*Editor's Note: Bruce is one of Groundcover's newer vendors. He has numerous physical ailments and health conditions that limit his ability to work or walk any distance, and retirement income has proven insufficient to cover more than basic expenses, leaving him trapped in his apartment. By selling Groundcover News, he gets out, talks to people and makes money that he then uses to participate in everyday activities.*

*He has had several careers and many adventures during the course of his life, one of which is the following account from his time in the army, when he was stationed in Turkey.*

I was in the Army Security Agency from 1964-68 and was on the top of a mountain in the middle of a desert 100 kilometers from Turkey's capital, Ankara. I turned 21 there in 1966 and I broke the fast by drinking in Ankara, and made a night of it. After one such night of drinking, a Turkish taxi driver saved my life.

I should tell you that the Soviets wanted to know what we (the Army) knew of them. So, the Russians offered \$25,000 for any agents brought to the border, no questions asked.

We were returning to my Turk base (Geriquzuk, Turkey) and we came up on a blocked main road. A bus was sideways on the road up the side of the mountain on the way to my post, blocking the whole road. The driver, a friend of mine named Husain, said

there was a shortcut (really a goat trail) through a valley around the blocked road which would save us hours in the cold Turk hills.

We took that goat trail in his Citroën (a French front-wheel-drive car with high clearance). When we came around a bend there was a tree over the road. I offered to help him remove the tree and he yelled at me to get down in the back and he hit the gas really hard, pushing that old car to the limit. We sped up very quickly. Hussain hunched down in the seat and up over the tree we zoomed. I stupidly looked out the back window and saw three bandits with various guns in the gutter. They jumped out and yelled at us, waving their guns in the air.

If we had stopped he would have been dead and I would have had a short life in a Soviet Prison on the Black Sea before being shot, for obviously the Russians would not want our security forces to know that they knew that we knew of Soviet troop movements worldwide going from Pakistan all the way up to Moscow – information I could have divulged. Hussain did indeed save our bacon by knowing that the blocked road (goat trail) would have been fatal to us had we halted.

I continue to feel for my GI buddies over there because the only reason the Turks are our allies is that they have a deep hatred for the Russian horsemen of the steppes. The Soviets are distrusted and hated because in 1890 the Turk army, one million strong, went into the steppes and not one man ever returned.

## Steve Jobs – film review

continued from page 9

of the truly exemplary cast (especially Kate Winslet as Jobs' fiercely loyal marketing executive, Joanna Hoffman) are given room to let thoughts and emotions unfold naturally.

As a result, we are allowed to get deep into the heart of what made the late Steve Jobs tick. We also come to intimately know many other characters in the process. In the final scene, essentially an interaction between Jobs and his estranged daughter, Lisa, the emotion captured between the two characters is unbearably charged — and profoundly touching. This is Boyle's most mature film yet, proof that

he is capable of moving hearts and challenging minds as well as popping eyes. Even his *Slumdog Millionaire*, which you will recall won the 2009 Oscars for Best Film and Best Director (among others), seems shallow in comparison.

*Steve Jobs*, like David Fincher's *The Social Network* (2010) before it, shows how tremendously entertaining, psychologically and culturally insightful, and historically valuable a film about something as apparently humdrum as the history of a company or a computer can be when a team of extremely talented artists come together for a collective purpose. This is easily one of the best films of the year.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## Day-time Warming Center to re-open

by Sheri Wander

It's that time of year again! And once again, MISSION is teaming up with faith communities and the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County to create and maintain a democratically self-governed day-time warming shelter!

Our hosts are confirmed and the schedule is close to being set. For the first two weeks in December we will be at Journey of Faith, the next two weeks in December at Trinity Lutheran. In January we will again be hosted by St. Mary Student Parish and, also repeating their generosity from last year, First Baptist and First Congregational will be sharing hosting responsibilities for February. Our March host is Lord of Light Lutheran. The shelter will run Monday through Friday and the hours will vary depending on our host, but generally, 8:30 or 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 or 5:00 p.m.

Now we need YOUR help. Can you join us in working with our friends experiencing homelessness to ensure everyone has a safe, warm and dry place to go during the day?

### We need:

**1) Healthy (and a few not so healthy) snacks** each day. Last year's favorites included: fresh fruit (especially things like bananas and clementine tangerines that are easily eaten, even with dental problems), yogurt, bagels with cream cheese, granola bars, cheese and crackers, cookies, and sandwich fixings.

**2) Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, more coffee, sugar and cream or creamer.**

**3) Paper products:** paper plates, paper bowls, napkins, coffee filters, plastic ware, coffee cups (bonus if they have lids), and tissues and toilet paper so the hosting faith community is not taking a financial hit.

**4) Hot lunches** – We will definitely provide snacks, but offer no guarantee of a meal since the Delonis Center hosts lunch every weekday. But our December churches are not within walking distance and it's nice not to



have to spend limited bus tokens to get from one shelter to the other and back. Plus, when it's really cold it is nice for folks not to have to go out for a meal. Kitchen accommodations vary from place to place and our numbers vary from month to month, so if you are interested in supporting in this way, let me know.

**5) Bus tokens** – These may not seem like a big deal, but they are huge. As I said above, the December host congregations are not within walking distance to town so people need a way to get there. Tokens are also (especially when combined with gift cards) a wonderful conflict resolution tool! I work really hard to maintain a safe space for everyone AND to not kick anyone out. That means that having an easy way to send someone off on an errand or for a chance to cool down before things escalate is key. MISSION's "Hill House" (the house of hospitality on Stone School Road) can also provide a sanctuary if particular guests just need

to be away from each other for a while. These things can so much more easily be accomplished when we can provide the bus tokens to get folks there.

**6) \$5.00 gift cards to coffee shops and places like Panera.** Again, these are a great conflict resolution tool. If someone needs to be removed for the day due to the threat of inappropriate behavior, tension or potential conflicts, they can still have a warm, safe place to be. Last year, for example, we had a guest with a longtime alcohol addiction show up drunk. While he was able to maintain a level of behavioral appropriateness, it was pretty borderline and a trigger to others fighting addiction. The temperature was also quite a bit below freezing and it was not safe for him to be outside. A friend of his was able to use one of the coffee cards to walk with him to a coffee shop, help him sober up and return.

Another guest with severe dissociative disorder would sometimes wake from

a nightmare screaming or just be loud and disruptive – but had no control over this behavior. This individual was kept safe by going out for coffee, and that alternative maintained a safe space for other guests, keeping everyone warm and happy.

**7) Socks, hand and foot warmers, toiletries, hats, gloves and mittens,** socks (yes, it has been said.... it's worth repeating; so needed) and such items for our "free table."

**8) YOU – your time and talents.** Come, drink coffee and play games, do puzzles, make art, lend a listening ear or help with a job application, hang out, make friends... You will help the warming center, gain something for yourself and build relationships that may just last a long time to come!

Helping is easy! Many of the hosts will have their own methods for volunteering. You can visit the hosts' websites or you can sign up using the link below. You may also contact me directly. Or you can just show up.

We're using **VolunteerSpot** (the leading online sign-up and reminder tool) to organize our upcoming sign-ups. Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to see our Sign-Up on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/aFshfn>
2. Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
3. Sign up! It's Easy – you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on VolunteerSpot.

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me at [playfullspirit@gmail.com](mailto:playfullspirit@gmail.com), and I can sign you up manually.

## Cryptoquote Solution

**Ethics and equity and the principles of justice do not change with the calendar.**

– D. H. Lawrence

9	7	3	1	4	5	8	6	2
2	1	8	9	7	6	3	4	5
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E	L	S	E		D	E	P	O	T		E	L	M	S



Costumes

It's funny how people just look at a person's costumes  
Prejudging before getting to know a person  
Costumes  
Categorizing just because of a person's garment  
He's a nerd because he wears High Waters, he's a thug  
because he wears baggy jeans  
Costumes  
It's weird how a person's costume can determine how a  
person may act towards you  
If you're in a shirt and tie and speak to somebody they will  
speak  
If you're wearing holey, bummy clothes and speak to  
somebody they ignore you  
Costumes  
As a Groundcover vendor, I wore many costumes and got  
many different reactions from people  
Let's take time to open our minds and get to know people  
and not just look at their costumes

by Joe Woods  
Groundcover Vendor #103

Ethel's sugar cookies



by Liz Bauman  
Groundcover Contributor

Our family tradition is to make these cookies every December. We decorate with colored frosting and various sprinkles. Many people have told me that these are the best sugar cookies they have ever tasted!

- Mix thoroughly:
- 3/4 cup soft shortening (I use a combination of shortening and soft butter)
  - 1 cup sugar
  - 2 eggs
  - 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- Mix together and stir in:
- 2½ cups flour
  - 1 tsp. baking powder
  - 1 tsp. salt

Chill for 1 hour. Roll dough out on floured surface (to about 1/8 to 1/4 inch thick). Cut into desired shapes. Place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake for 6 to 8 minutes at 400 degrees. Remove from baking sheet and allow to cool. Excellent with a frosting made with powdered sugar and milk.

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<b>Kiwanis Thrift Sale Downtown</b> Saturdays, 9am-12pm Washington at First St.	<b>Kiwanis Thrift Sale West</b> Fri. & Sat. 9am-1pm 102 N. Staebler Rd. at W. Jackson Rd.
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GROUNDCOVER NEWS ADVERTISING RATES

Size	Black and White	Color	Approx. Size
Business card	\$49.95	\$65.95	3.5 X 2
1/8	\$89.95	\$129.95	2.5 X 6.5 or 5 X 3.25
1/6	\$129.95	\$165.95	5 X 5
1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 X 6.5
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	5 X 14 or 10 X 6.5
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	10 X 14

PACKAGE PRICING

- Three Months/Three Issues: 15% off
- Six Months/Six Issues: 25% off
- Full Year/Twelve Issues: 35% off
- Additional 20% off ads with coupons